

Warehouse
Union and Front Streets (southeast corner)
New Bedford
Bristol County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-689

HABS
MASS,
3-NEBED,
23-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
142 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

WAREHOUSE

HABS
MASS,
3-NEBED,
23-

Address: Southeast corner, Union and Front Streets,
New Bedford, Bristol County, Massachusetts

Present Use: Either vacant or used for inactive storage

Brief Statement
of Significance: A commercial building representative of New
Bedford's period of prosperity, with notable
architectural details.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Date of erection is undetermined - perhaps the 1840's.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: A large warehouse and store building, with a first-story facade of granite, having refined details. The exterior appears substantially unchanged, except for store fronts.
2. Condition of fabric: From the exterior it appears sound; mortar joints need pointing in places, and finish of wood trim is somewhat deteriorated.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Approximately 54' x 72', with a one-story wing 27' x 76' on the east end. Four-and-a-half stories. Fronting north.
2. Foundations: Granite (continuing the walls).
3. Wall construction: East and west walls are of roughly squared and granite blocks, random ashlar, with lime-sand mortar. Jambs, lintels, and sills of openings are of dressed granite; jambs are formed of a single block each. Mortar joints have been repointed at various times. North wall is of small hard brick on upper stories; laid in running bond (no headers); ground floor construction is of monolithic dressed granite piers and lintels, with sheet lead in narrow joints. (South wall is hidden from view).

4. Chimneys: Brick - one on east and one on west, near north wall.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: North front: - two former doorways retain their transom lights, with horizontal diamond panes, wood muntins, lead rosettes at the intersections; one retains the transom bar. The above appear to have been double doors. One apparently original single door remains; it has three horizontal moulded panels above and two nearly square panels below. A heavy plank frame is set into the masonry opening. West end: - ground floor doors show remains of iron pintles embedded in the wall at jacks. Doors on upper floors for receiving and removing goods.

b. Windows: On north front: - Double hung wood sash 6/6 lights.

6. Roof:

a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, with gables on east and west ends. Now covered with asphalt composition shingles.

b. Cornice: Along the north front is a moulded brick cornice.

7. Hardware: In the west wall a number of iron eyes, pintles, and keepers are embedded, apparently where shutters were formerly hung.

8. Site: This building occupies a corner lot in the old water-front area, with its north and west walls at the property line. Another warehouse building adjoins to the south.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect
National Park Service
September 1961.